

Defender of the Crown

Questions & Answers

How important are the character ratings?

To win the game you must know your opponents, and that means knowing their ratings. Your first action in each game should be to select READ MAP and look at the opposing lords' home territories. Write down their ratings: leadership, jousting and swordfighting. That way, when you select a jousting opponent or a castle to raid, you can choose easier opponents.

How do you practice jousting and swordfighting?

To learn how to joust, choose Cedric as your character and spend a game holding tournaments. To practice swordfighting, choose Geoffrey and spend a game raiding castles.

How do you change tactics during a battle?

As you move the joystick during battle, the word colored white is the tactic currently being used. You can change your tactic by moving the joystick until the desired tactic is colored yellow. Then press the fire button. Until you press the fire button, the tactic colored white remains in effect.

When should you use OUTFLANK?

When you meet a lord in battle, check your list for your opponent's leadership rating. If it is higher than yours, his army will be hard to defeat even if you have more soldiers and knights. But if he has a *lower* leadership rating, try selecting OUTFLANK. You may be able to win the battle even if your army is smaller than his.

Can you win the game if you attack other Saxons?

Many strategies can lead to victory, and a strategy that works in one game may not work well in another. Observe the ebb and flow during each game and change your strategy accordingly. You may be able to "unite" the Saxons through conquest and alliance (by rescuing a Saxon lady), then turn south to conquer the Normans—but this is a difficult strategy to pursue, and is not recommended for inexperienced players.

Instead, try moving through Saxon territories without attacking in order to reach the most valuable Norman territories. Then attack and capture them. A territory worth seven gold per turn can bring in valuable income early in the game, even if you only hold it for two or three turns.

Every time you play "Defender of the Crown," it's a different game. If you win once, the next game is sure to be a new experience.

If all of the Normans are defeated, is the game over?

If Saxons have captured all of the Norman castles, the game isn't quite over. To win, you must attack and capture all three Norman castles, even if they are being held by Saxons.

How do you kill the guard inside the castle?

During the swordfight in the castle courtyard, save some strength for the guard inside the castle. He is the captain of the garrison, and a tough opponent—when his strength runs out, you must force him to the top of the stairs before he'll die.

How do ratings affect the joust?

A "STRONG" rating in the joust means your aim doesn't have to be as good, because your lance hits the opponent's shield with greater force. A "WEAK" joust rating means you'll have to hit your opponent's shield dead center to knock him from his horse.

How can you avoid losing your castle?

If you frequently lose your home castle early in the game, you probably should leave more men behind in the home garrison (transfer them from your army). You should also attack any Norman who moves adjacent to your castle. If you don't, he's likely to attack your castle on his next turn. Building castles in the territories next to your home castle is another way to protect yourself.

How much gold should you spend buying knights?

Knights are a powerful weapon on the battlefield, but you need soldiers to protect them. Try buying three soldiers for every knight at first, then adjust the ratio to your liking as you become proficient at the game.